(d) if so, whether any steps have been and are being taken to have this land vacated of encroachments and any time bound plan of action drawn out for the purpose; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of total 21.52 lakhs acres of defence land scattered all over the country, about 6903 acres have been under illegal occupation as per details given below:—

(i)	Army including Military Farms	— 1,288 acres
(ii)	Air Force Including Radar and Communication Project Office	— 869 acres
(iii)	Navy	— 1,741 acres
(iv)	Defence Research & Development Organisation	— 19 acres
(v)	Defence Estates Organisations including Cantonment Boards	— 2,986 acres
	Total	6,903 acres

The encroachments have mainly occured over a period of time by way of construction of temporary/permanent buildings, temples, huts, and cultivation mainly in areas away from the main military Stations and Cantonments. The process of detection and removal is continuing exercise. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to Court orders.

(c) These encroachments have not posed security hazards.

(d) All Defence land is placed under the management and custodial responsibility and protection of specific authorities as laid down in the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937 and Rules for the Acquisition, Custody and Relinquishment of Military lands in India (ACR Rules) 1944. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the authorities for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments as well as removal of existing encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The progress of action taken to remove encroachments is also reviewed by the Ministry in the Directors' Defence Estates Conference and Army Commanders' Conference.

भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों की दुर्घटनाएं

1202. **श्री जागीर सिंह "दर्द":**
श्री अजीत जोगी:
श्री सतीश प्रधान:

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान और चालू वर्ष में आज तक भारतीय वायुसेना के कितने विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुए;

(ख) क्या सरकार को भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों की बढ़ती दुर्घटनाओं की जानकारी है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार विमान दुर्घटनाओं के कारणों की जांच करने और भविष्य में ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं/उठाए जाने का विचार है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० वी० एन० सोमू: (क) से (ग) भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों को दुर्घटना की दर जो पूर्व दशक में लगभग 30 विमान प्रतिवर्ष थी अब चालू दशक में घटकर औसतन 22.8 विमान प्रतिवर्ष रह गई है। विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान हुई दुर्घटनाओं तथा उसमें शामिल विमानों की संख्या इस प्रकार है:—

	दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या	विमानों की संख्या
1993-94	22	22
1994-95	25	25

	दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या	विमानों की संख्या
1995-96	27	28
1996-97 (28.2.97 तक)	18	19

भारतीय वायुसेना के विमान की प्रत्येक दुर्घटना की तफतीश जांच अदालत करती है। तहकीकात करने से पता चला है कि मुख्य रूप से ऐसी दुर्घटनाएं मानवीय चूक, तकनीकी दोषों तथा पक्षियों से टकराने से होती हैं। दुर्घटनाओं का गहन अध्ययन करने के लिए रक्षा मंत्री के वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया गया है। इसके अलावा ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को तात्कालिक आधार पर रोकने के लिए हवाई सहायता व आक्रमण पद्धतियों की समीक्षा की गई है। कृषि मंत्रालय तथा शहरी कार्य तथा रोजगार मंत्रालय और संबंधित राज्य सरकारों ने पशुबध गृहों/पशु अवशेष निपटान केन्द्रों के आधुनिकीकरण और पक्षियों के आने-जाने को कम करने के लिए वायु क्षेत्रों से लगे इलाकों की सफाई के वास्ते भी कदम उठाए हैं।

Decommissioning INS Vikrant

1203. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that INS Vikrant has been decommissioned from the Indian Navy;

(b) whether any other aircraft carrier is being commissioned to replace it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir. INS Vikrant has been decommissioned with effect from 31st January, 1997 on completion of its life cycle.

(b) to (d) There is a proposal for purchase of an aircaft carrier as replacement for INS Vikrant.

Additional facilities to Indian Coast Guard

1204. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Coast Guards have submitted a plan to Government for seeking additional fast patrol vessels, hover crafts, aircrafts, helicopters and manpower besides two more bases in Gujarat and Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on each item by Government in this regard; and

(c) the site of bases proposed to be created in Gujarat in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Government have under consideration certain plans for strengthening of Indian Coast Guards. It is not considered desirable to disclose details at this stage.

Voluntary retirement by Defence officers

1205. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Defence officers are opting voluntary retirement resulting into shortage of officers;

(b) if so, the number of officers who opted voluntary retirement during the last three years, year-wise in different commands, command-wise and wing-wise;

(c) the extent of shortage of officers strength as on date in three wings of Army, Air Force and Navy separately; and

(d) the steps taken to check such exodus?